through their PDS network is the responsibility of the concerned States/UTs. The scale of distribution of PDS kerosene per card holder, is decided by the State Government and it varies from State to State. Some of the States are distributing PDS kerosene to Above Poverty Line (APL) cardholders in addition to BPL cardholders.

(b) With effect from 01 Jan 2009 no marker is used in kerosene.

(c) and (d) No marker is being blended with kerosene as on date. However, adequate precautions would be taken as and when marker is blended in PDS kerosene in future to safeguard against any health hazard.

Oil refinery in Rajasthan

†2515. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil and natural gas reserves have been discovered in various districts of Rajasthan; if so, the areas in which surveys for oil and gas reserves have been completed;

(b) whether the Central Government has finalized any plan for setting up of an oil refinery in any area of Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, the details of area which has been selected for setting up of oil refinery and by when construction work would commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Sir. Oil and Natural Gas has been discovered in the districts of Barmer, Jalore and Jaisalmer in Rajasthan.

(b) and (c) Government of India had nominated Mangalore Refinery Private Limited (MRPL), a subsidiary company of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) for setting up a Refinery. The proposal to set up an oil refinery in Barmer is subject to techno-commercial viability to be assessed by ONGC.

Increase in oil refining capacity of IOC

†2516. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRJ RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Oil Corporation has decided to increase the oil refining capacity of the country by investing Rs.60,000 crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how much additional oil refining capacity this investment is likely to generate;

(c) whether Government has considered the economic aspect of increasing oil refining capacity of the country;

(d) if so, whether this project would be economically viable; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.